

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SY-04 JUS-02 SCI-06

TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /109 W

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FM AMEMBTSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4347

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: TAMPA TRIBUNE ARTICLE RE GENERAL SOMOZA

FOR LEGATT CAMMAROTA

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 PM., JUNE 9, GENERAL SOMOZA TELEPHONED ME AT MY HOME TO ADVISE THAT THE NICARAGUAN CONSUL IN TAMPA, FLORIDA WAS ON HIS TELEPHONE READING TWO NEWS STORIES APPEARING IN THE TAMPA TRIBUNE OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY RESPECTIVELY REGARDING A COURT HEARING BEFORE JUDGE HERBERT S. RYDER, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COURT, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTRY JUDGE IN TAMPA, RELATIVE TO REDUCTION OF BAIL OF \$1 MILLION AGAINST RAYMOND S. STANSEL OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA.

2. THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE ARTICLE FROM WHAT I WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND INDICATED THAT STANSEL WHO HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY AUTHORITIES OF DEPT. OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OF FLORIDA FOR ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING MARIJUANA HAD CLAIMED THAT HE WAS A BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF BRIAN GOLDNER, SON OF HERMAN W. GOLDNER, FORMER MAYOR OF ST. PETERSBERG, FLORIDA, AND GENERAL SOMOZA. THE ALLEGATIONS APPEARED TO INCLUDE STATEMENTS THAT STANSEL WAS OWNER, OR PART OWNER, OF MARISCOS DE LA BAHIA, A FISHING FIRM OF HONDURAS OF WHICH ACCORDING TO STANSEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMOZA IS A PART OWNER. STANSEL ALSO ALLEGED THAT HE WAS OWNER, OR PART OWNER, OF PEQUEROS COMPANY OF FLUEFIELDS FOR WHICH SOMOZA HAD INVESTED FOR HIM \$650,000.

3. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES INDICATED THAT LARRY CAMPBELL WAS AGENT IN CHARGE OF DEPT. OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OF FLORIDA, AND THAT STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE TO JUDGE RYDER IN OPEN COURT BY SALCINEAS, AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THIS WAS ALL A PART OF MAJOR WORLD-WIDE DRUG CONSPIRACY OF WHICH "GENERAL SOMOZA WAS A PART." ALLEGEDLY, SALCINEAS HAD ALSO STATED THAT A LETTER HAD BEEN FOUND ON STANSEL ADDRESSED TO AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL IN WHICH

THE STATEMENT WAS MADE ALONG THE LINES THAT THE STRONGEST PROTECTION AND SUPPORT WHICH THEY HAD WAS GENERAL SOMOZA. STANSEL HAD ALSO APPARENTLY STATED THAT HE HAD A "BLANK VISA" WHICH PERMITTED HIM TO LAND ANYWHERE IN NICARAGUA AND GAVE HIM COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. ARTICLE FURTHER ALLEGED THAT WITHIN THE PAST MONTH STANSEL HAD VISITED SOME 15 OR 20 COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, EUROPE AND ASIA, ACCORDING TO STAMPS IN PASSPORT. THERE WERE OTHER REFERENCES IN THE ARTICLE WHICH WAS READ FROM TAMPA TO ASSOCIATION WITH COLUMBIAN CITIZENS WITH WHOM STANSEL WAS ASSOCIATED.

4. NEEDLESS TO SAY, GEN. SOMOZA WAS IN AN EXTREMELY HIGH STATE OF AGGITATION OVER THESE ACCUSATIONS WHICH HE CONSIDERED TO BE "OUTRAGEOUSLY UNFAIR" TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE UNITED STATES LAW OFFICIALS WITHOUT HAVING CONTACTED HIM OR ATTEMPTED TO HAVE CONTACTED HIM TO DETERMINE ANY FACTS. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE HAS NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN MARISCOS DE LA BAHIA OF HONDURAS, AND THAT PISQUEROS IS A FIRM WHICH HE WHOLLY OWNS WHICH MANUFACTURES GLASS-BOTTOM BOATS ON THE EAST COAST, A BOAT BUILDING YARD WHICH WAS PURCHASED FROM AN AMERICAN CONCERN.

5. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER EVER HAVING MET ANYONE BY THE NAME OF STANSEL BUT THAT "SOMETIME AGO" HERMAN W. GOLDNER WAS INTRODUCED TO HIM AS FORMER MAYOR OF ST. PETERSBERG, FLORIDA, AND BROUGHT WITH HIM HIS SON BRIAN GOLDNER, WHO IS ALLEDGELY A GRADUATE

OF THE US AIR ACADEMY. THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE WITH THE GROUP, NAMES OF WHOM SOMOZA IS UNAWARE. THEY APPROACHED HIM REGARDING FURNISHING FINANCING FOR STEEL HULLED BOAT CONSTRUCTION
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YARD, AND FOR FINANCING OF FISHING INTERESTS WHICH WOULD BE BASED EITHER IN NICARAGUA OR HONDURAS. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE REJECTED BOTH OFFERS AND TOLD THESE INDIVIDUALS HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH INVESTMENTS.

6. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT DURING HIS ABSENCE IN THE UNITED STATES THIS PAST WEEK (SOMOZA, IT WILL BE RECALLED WENT TO WASHINGTON ON JUNE 5) BRIAN GOLDNER APPARENTLY ACCOMPANIED BY A

JANET WOOD AND PERHAPS OTHERS HAD VISITED NICARAGUA AND ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS CERTAIN PROPOSED BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOME OF HIS EMPLOYEES. SOMOZA HAD NOT SEEN GOLDNER BUT HE ADVISED THAT HIS AIRPORT OFFICIALS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT GOLDNER HAD LEFT IN AN AIRCRAFT NO. N23TA, THE MORNING OF JUNE 9, FILING A FLIGHT PLAN FOR VERACRUZ, MEXICO.

7. SOMOZA IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH ANYONE ENGAGED IN DRUG TRAFFIC IN VIEW OF HIS LONG-TIME REPUTATION AS BEING A VIGOROUS OPPONENT OF ANY FORM OF DRUG ACTIVITY WHICH HAD KEPT NICARAGUA REMARKABLY FREE OF DRUG ACTIVITY. SOMOZA HAS ASKED THAT A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS SITUATION, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH THE UNITES STATES GOVERNMENT CAN FURNISH.
SHELTON

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